



# **The United States Microgravity Science Program**

**Presentation to**  
**the 39th AIAA Aerospace Sciences**  
**Meeting and Exhibit**

**January 8, 2001**  
**Reno, Nevada**

**Robin Henderson**  
**Microgravity Research Program Office**  
**Marshall Space Flight Center**  
**National Aeronautics and Space Administration**



Marshall Space Flight Center

## **NASA's Five Strategic Enterprises**



**Space Science**

**Earth Science**

**Human Exploration and Development of Space**

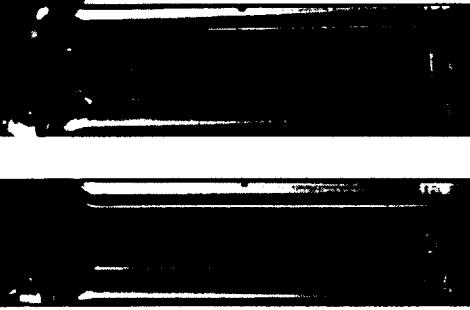
**Aerospace Technology**

**Biological & Physical Research**



## Biological and Physical Research

**NASA has the capability to create a unique cross-disciplinary research program bringing the basic sciences of Biology, Physics, and Chemistry together with a wide range of Engineering disciplines and Information Technologies.**



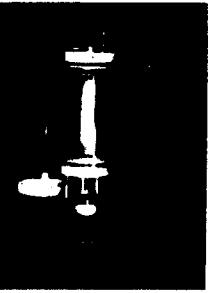
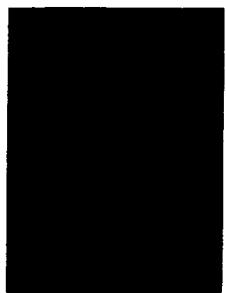
**The resulting synergy and the access to Space will ensure that the Agency's objectives are addressed with the most effective tools available, and that the resulting impact on Biology and Biomedical research will be significant and long lasting.**





## Physical Sciences Research Goals

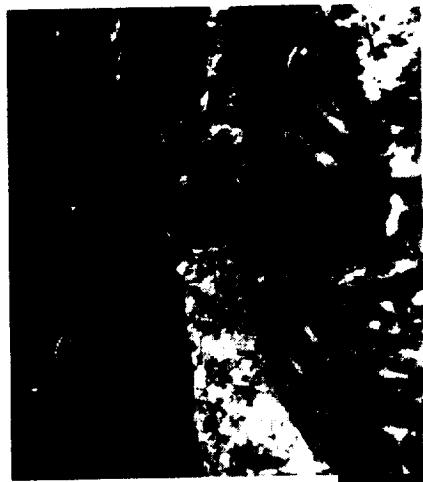
- To carry out cutting-edge, peer-reviewed, and multi-disciplinary basic research enabled by the space environment to address NASA's goal of advancing and communicating knowledge.
- To develop a rigorous cross-disciplinary scientific capability, bridging physical sciences and biology to address NASA's human and robotic space exploration goals.
- To establish the ISS facilities as unique on-orbit science laboratories addressing targeted scientific and technological issues of high significance.
- To enhance the knowledge base impacting Earth-based technological and industrial applications.





## Physical Sciences Research\* Organization

- **Fundamental Microgravity Research**
  - Fundamental Physics
  - Materials Science
  - Fluid Physics
  - Combustion Science
  - Exploration Research
- **Biotechnology & Earth-based Application**
  - Cellular biotechnology
  - Macromolecular biotechnology
  - Earth-based applications
- **Biomolecular Physics**
  - Atomics and molecular processes in biosystems
  - Biological sensing phenomena
  - Cellular components assembling mechanisms

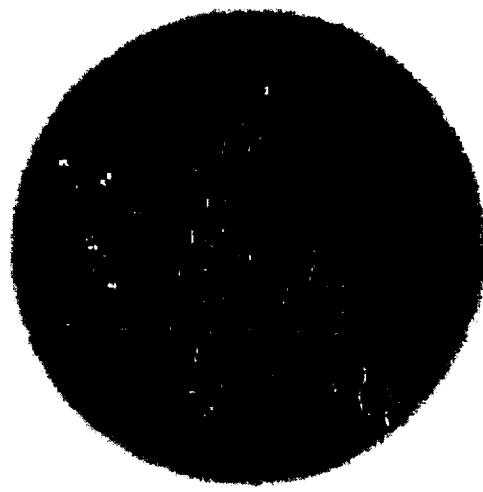




## Physical Sciences Research Enhancements

**The Physical Sciences Research Division restructured to promote cross-disciplinary physical, chemical, biological, and theoretical research**

- **Basic research program to understand the effects of gravity on physico-chemical properties (microgravity research)**
- **Introduction of Biomolecular Physics Program to develop atomic and molecular-scale tools**
- **Redesigned Biotechnology Program utilizes and enables the space environment and exploration**



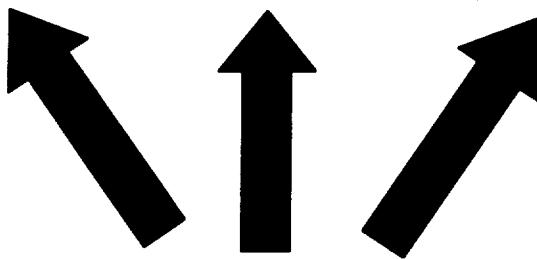


## Microgravity Research Strategic Directions

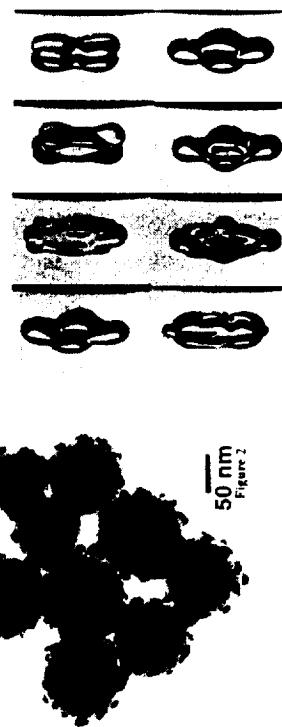
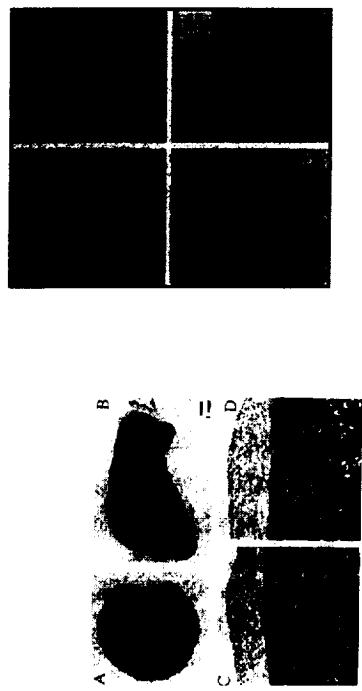
**Fundamental research  
enabled by the microgravity  
environment**

**Basic research targeting  
human space exploration  
goals**

**Microgravity research in  
support of Earth-based  
applications**



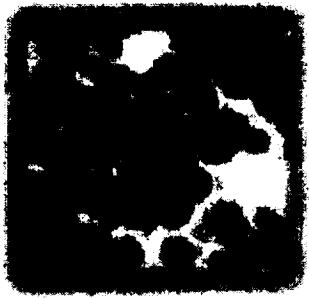
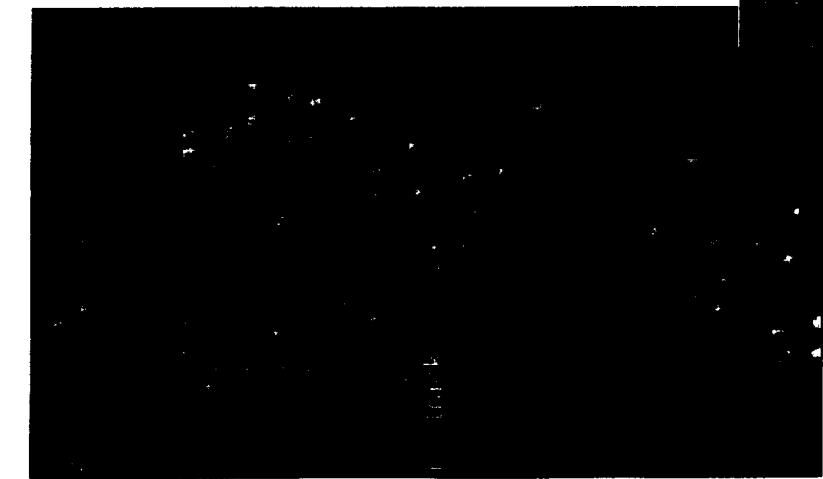
**Goal-oriented basic  
and applied research**



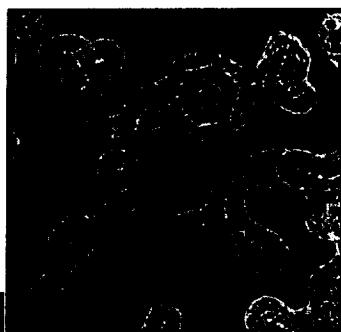


Marshall Space Flight Center

## Additional Program Enhancements



- New NRA approach
- Synergy between other disciplines/ outside areas
- 50 - 50 split between fundamental research and applied research





## Upcoming Missions



## Microgravity Research Space Shuttle Flight Operations

### STS-107



- Combustion Module-2 (CM-2)
  - Structures of Flame Balls at Low Lewis-number Experiment (SOFBALL)
  - Laminar Soot Processes Experiment (LSP)
- Space Acceleration Measurement System-Free Flyer (SAMS-FF)
- Orbital Acceleration Research Experiment (OARE)
- Bioreactor Demonstration System-05 (BDS-05)
- Mechanics of Granular Materials-III (MGM-III)

### STS-112 Preliminary Code

- Middeck Glovebox Facility (MGBX)
  - Candle Flames in Microgravity (CFM-2)
  - Front Interface with Vortex Experiment (FIVE)
  - Fiber Supported Droplet Combustion (FSDC-3)
  - Shear History Extensional Rheology Experiment (SHERE)
    - Smoke Points in Coflow Experiment (SPICE)
- Bioreactor Demonstration System (BDS-7,8)
- Biotechnology Payload #1 (New SBT)
- Biotechnology Payload #2 (New SBT)



Marshall Space Flight Center

# International Space Station Preparation

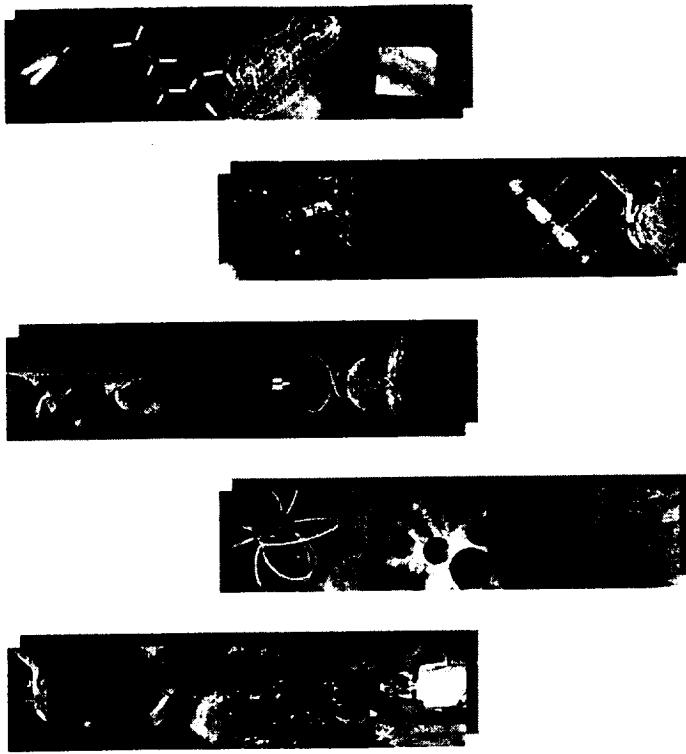




## What Are Increments?

Increments unify integration, research, and crews under a single theme

- Increments average about 4 months and are determined by crew rotations and flights to/from International Space Station
- Each increment has a theme that focuses on the primary science or activities performed
  - Increment 1: Bringing space to the public
  - Increment 2: Radiation
  - Increment 3: Bone and muscle research
  - Increment 4: Plants and PROCESS
  - Increment 5: Crystals for the future



**Increment 1 is here!**

As of 11/2/2000

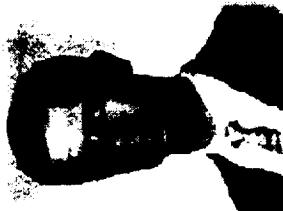
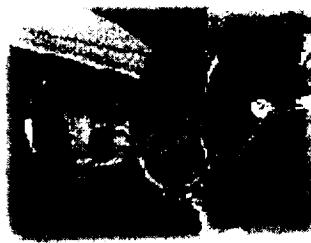


Marshall Space Flight Center

**Increment 1 on orbit now!**

- **November 2000-February 2001**
- **4 Modules on-orbit**
  - Unity (Node)
  - Zarya (Functional Cargo Block)
  - Zvezda (Service Module)
  - Destiny (U.S. Lab 02/01)
- **5 assembly and resupply flights**
- **Expedition 1 Crew arrived November 2, 2000 on Soyuz**
- **ISS at end of Increment 1**

ISS at end of Increment 1





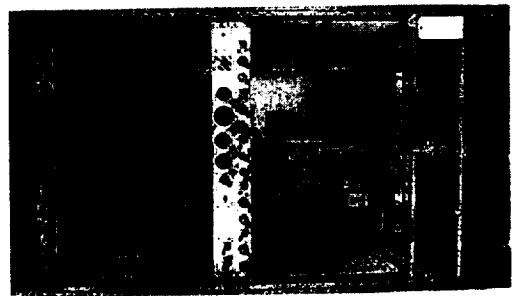
## Research Plan Summary

- Experiments for increments 1-5 are manifested
- Existing experiment queues are being assessed for flight increments 6-17
- Increment 6-12 themes will be available 01/01
- Increment 13-17 themes are targeted for 6/01 following interactions with ISS Program Office to determine resources allocated
- Increments schedules are subject to Shuttle performance

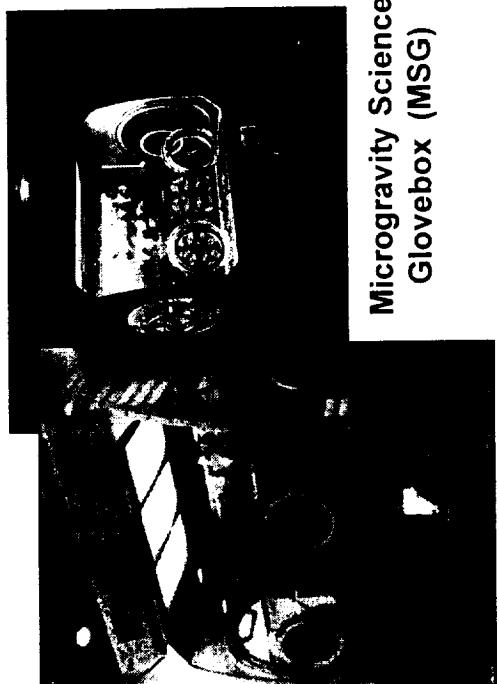


Marshall Space Flight Center

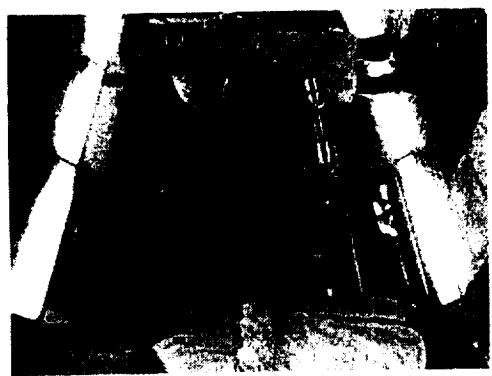
## Microgravity Research on the International Space Station



EXPRESS Rack



Microgravity Science  
Glovebox (MSG)



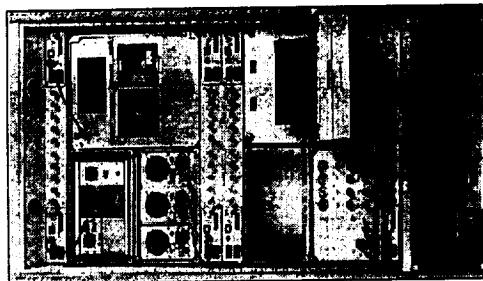
Fluids and Combustion  
Facility (FCF)



Materials Science Research  
Facility (MSRF)  
Research Rack (MSRR-1)



Low Temperature  
Microgravity  
Physics Facility  
(LTMPF)



Bio Technology Facility  
(BTF)



## Microgravity Research International Space Station Status

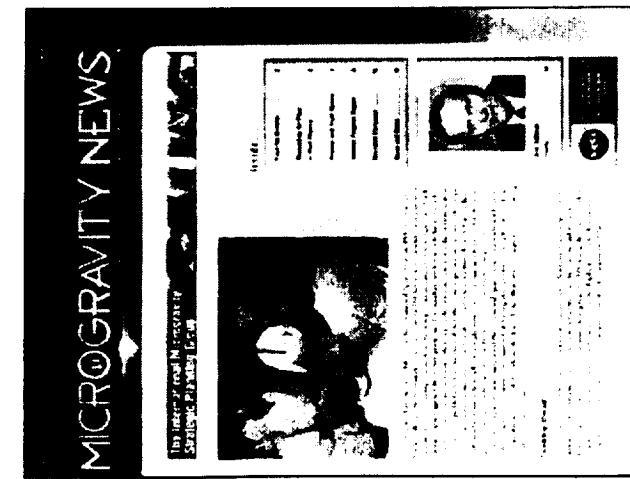
- First Microgravity payload flew on ISS Flight 2A-2B in September 2000
  - Protein Crystal Growth - Enhanced Gaseous Nitrogen (PCG-EGN)
- Significant Microgravity Express Rack activity starts in 2001 with Flights 6A, 7A, 7A-1, and UF-1
- ISS Flight 6A (April 2001)
  - Space Acceleration Measurement System-II (SAMS II)
  - Microgravity Acceleration Measurement Systems (MAMS)
  - Physics of Colloids in Space (PCS)
  - Protein Crystal Growth - Single Thermal Enclosure System (PCG-STES)
- Microgravity ISS Flight UF-2 (February 2002)
  - Microgravity Science Glovebox (MSG)
- Fluids, Combustion, and Materials Facilities
  - Initial Hardware launch planned for UF-3 in August 2004



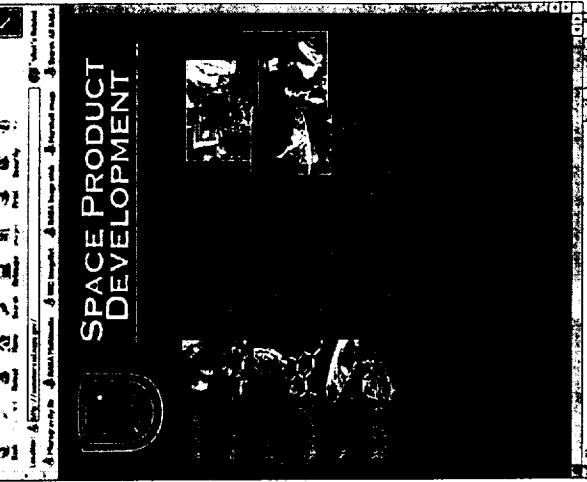
Marshall Space Flight Center

## For Program Updates See . . . .

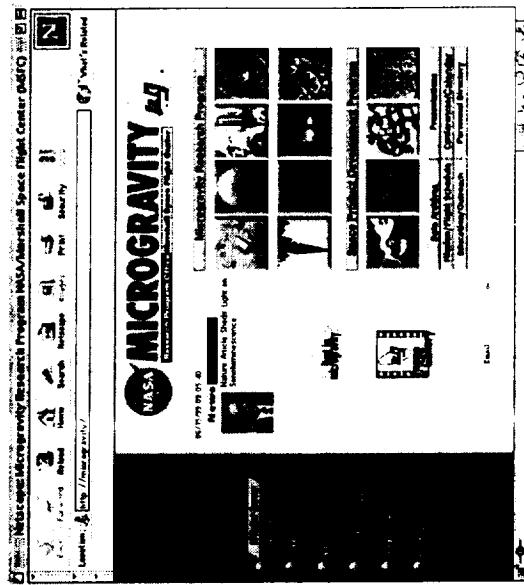
**Microgravity Quarterly  
Newsletter**



<http://microgravity.nasa.gov>



<http://commercial.nasa.gov>



**Available online at:**

<http://mgnnews.msfc.nasa.gov/>

**Request hardcopy by sending email request to:**  
[microgravitynews@msfc.nasa.gov](mailto:microgravitynews@msfc.nasa.gov)